

What are the Information Needs of Communities & Citizens? Philadelphia needs more than the nightly local crime; we need positive stories to inspire young people. We need reporting in all the media on the dangers of violence and firearms--but without the usual titillating glamorizing of violence and racism. We desperately need HONEST print journalism with investigative reporters searching out a lot more than "official" propaganda--and editors who will encourage reporting the real news, not slick lies and half truths. We need the total break-up of media monopolies, and I will rejoice when SIR Rupert Murdoch crawls back to Australia and his Fox "News" skills are on welfare! I haven't watched ANY commercial TV news for almost 20 years--it's so lousy. PBS News isn't much better--most of it's right-wing biased. Public TV documentaries are a lot more truthful than those on the networks or Cable, and the whole TLC group's documentaries are terribly ignorant.

How is Commercial Media Serving Your Community?

VERY BADLY! I avoid watching any TV that breaks into programs with commercials, and stick with on-air Independent Channel 35 (MiND-TV) and, occasionally, on-air PBS Channels 12 and 23. I haven't had cable in 20 years, or watched more than a couple of programs on commercial TV since DEEP SPACE NINE went off--except, very rarely, the Channel 10-2 HD Weather station. It has no noisy irritating advertising, simply reports the weather & I only watch it if severe weather threatens. Otherwise I NEVER watch commercial TV any more since there are almost no programs worth watching. I am thoroughly sick of TV representing the lowest common denominator of idiocy, sponsored by the international cartels. It would be no exaggeration to say that I loath commercial television, and have for several years. There are no more "Omnibus" or "Smothers Brothers" or "The Prisoner" or even "Max Headroom" series on commercial TV. Last I saw one, "The Simpsons" was old and stale. For my radio listen!

ing I can't stand the local CBS, ABC, Fox, etc. radio stations. I am a subscriber. As for newspapers, about all I read in big newspapers is the editorial page. For local news I read the Mount Airy Independent, the Weavers Way Coop Shuttle, and occasionally the Daily News and the free Metro, which is nowhere nearly as good editorially as it used to be. I lost ALL my respect for the Inquirer when they hired Bush's anti-U.S. Constitution, pro-torture lawyer John Yoo to spread the owner's propaganda. I haven't bought a copy of the Inquirer since. It was just sold, so I have some hope but am not counting on it.

What is the State of Noncommercial, Nonprofit, and Public Media?

Aside from desperately needing money, it's pretty good. I came from a WNET (New York City) area 14 years ago, and maybe I was spoiled, but I seldom watched Channel 12 until they got subsidiary channels, since who wants to look at old Lawrence Welk? Not me. I haven't had cable since I moved to Philadelphia, because I can get Channels 35 (4 channels), 12 (3), and 23 (2 video, 1 audio) and am delighted not to feed the bank accounts of the monopolist owners of Comcast. Channel 35 is the best--the most independent channel, offering worldwide news and entertainment (which are almost

never combined into "infotainment" as on commercial TV). I have so much respect for it, I joined their citizens' board of advisors.

What is the Impact of the Internet and Mobile Information?

I keep a cell phone strictly for telephoning and seldom turn it on. The Internet is the best place to get honest communication--on services like Alternet, Huffington Post RSN, etc. YouTube can be marvelous. I avoid the silly stuff like Facebook and wouldn't "twitter" if you paid me! Now that Comcast and Verizon have bought the Supreme Court we need a **STRONG** federal law to keep the Internet free and diverse--and further laws to ban media monopolies and restore "equal time", telling corporations they are **NOT** people and making a diversity of viewpoints, left to right, available. I pay \$40 for DSL service, which is often as slow as dial-up. I would **LOVE** Wireless but certainly can't afford it and wouldn't throw a dime to Comcast or Verizon. Parts of Philadelphia have Wi-Fi but it hasn't come to the Northwest yet, and has never worked well anyhow. We need good, reliable, **FREE** internet (hands off, monopolists!) and free or inexpensive access to WiFi for all.